



SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM



1 KINGS 2-3

Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

David was the king of Israel for many years. His son Solomon was going to be king after Him. Before King David died, he gave Solomon some instructions.

“Be strong and brave, Solomon,” David said. “Obey God, and you will be successful. God will keep His promise that every king of Israel will come from our family.” When David died, Solomon became the king of Israel.

One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, “Solomon, ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you.”

Anything? A king might have asked to live a long life or to have lots of riches. Solomon could have asked God to give him victory over all his enemies. But Solomon did not ask to be rich or to have a long life. Solomon wanted to be a good king. He asked for something even better.

Solomon prayed, “God, I am young, and I do not know very much about being a king. Please



make me wise and obedient to You. Help me know the difference between right and wrong. Help me lead Your people well.”

God was happy with Solomon’s request. God said, “I will give you wisdom. In fact, I will make you more wise and understanding than anyone who has ever lived. No one in the future will ever be as wise as Solomon.”

God also said, “Because you asked for wisdom, I will also give you what you did not ask for: long life, riches, and honor. You will be greater than any other king during your lifetime.”

Then Solomon woke up. He praised God and offered sacrifices to worship Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Solomon was a wise king who wanted to do God’s plan. Solomon wasn’t perfect, but God had a plan to give His people a greater and wiser king—His Son, Jesus. Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered His own life to die on the cross for our sin.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 3. Explain that the Book of 1 Kings comes after 1 Samuel. It tells about King Solomon’s rule over Israel and about the kings who ruled after him. Remind kids that Solomon became king after his father, David.

1. Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom instead of something else?

Instruct your kids to discuss their ideas. Prompt them to consider that a person usually asks for something he lacks. If Solomon asked for wisdom, he probably didn’t believe he was wise enough to lead God’s people on his own. Wisdom comes from God. Apart from Him, we are foolish.

2. How is Jesus greater than Solomon?

Point out that in the New Testament, Jesus said He is greater than Solomon. (See Matt. 12:42.) Emphasize that Jesus is God, and what does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future. The Bible says all wisdom and knowledge is found in Jesus. People went to Solomon for wisdom, but Jesus came to us. We can look to

Him for everything we need to know.

3. Why do you think people sometimes refuse to seek wisdom from God?

Guide your kids to discuss the humility required to listen to and accept the counsel of others. Pride often makes us want to depend on ourselves rather than on God or others. Listening to instruction might mean acknowledging you were wrong. Some people might refuse wisdom because they want what is wrong or selfish.

SAY:

Solomon had traveled from Jerusalem to Gibeon when God appeared to him in a dream. God told Solomon to ask for anything he wanted—anything at all! Solomon could have asked for power, riches, or a long life. He could have asked for victory over His enemies. But Solomon didn't ask for any of these things. He wanted to be a good king, so he asked for something better: wisdom to lead God's people well. So God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids find 1 Kings 2–3. Ask your kids which division 1 Kings is in. (Old Testament History) Remind kids that the ways we organize Scripture—division, book order, chapter, and verse numbers—are things people have done to help us find and study Scripture passages more easily.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did David tell Solomon about God?

To obey Him; that He would keep His promises; 1 Kings 2:3-4

2. What did Solomon ask God for?

Wisdom to lead, 1 Kings 3:9

3. What did God give Solomon?

Wisdom as well as riches and honor, 1 Kings 3:12-13

4. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?

Guide your kids to discuss the nature of knowing information versus knowing how to use information in the best way. Remind them that if a person knows the right things



but still does the wrong things, he is not wise. Talk about God's perfect knowledge and perfect wisdom.

5. Why does God want us to have wisdom?

Guide your kids to see that behaving wisely glorifies God and benefits us. When we behave foolishly, we dishonor God and hurt ourselves. God wants us to glorify Him, and He loves us and doesn't want us to be hurt. Wisdom leads us to Jesus. When we love and obey Jesus, God is glorified.

6. Ultimately, wisdom comes from God. What are some ways God gives us wisdom?

Guide your kids to see that we can gain wisdom by studying God's Word, by spending time with other believers, by praying to God, and by listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance. Remind kids that the wisest decision we can make is the decision to put our faith in Jesus to save us.



SAY:

God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. God wants all of us to be wise. The wisest thing we can do is admit that we need Jesus to save us from sin and trust in Him to forgive us, make us new, and give us life with God forever.